

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/16/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to the response to the office action of 4/16/2008, the applicant argues that the Watanabe reference (US 2003/0115277) does not teach or suggest that a summary document includes both location information specifying a location where image information is stored and summary image information, and that a summary email is generated including this information and the examiner respectfully disagrees because Watanabe teaches an image transmission method via electronic mail and as stated in Para 0071, the reference teaches generating and displaying a document [Fig. 5] which comprises a plurality of thumbnail images of registered high resolution images in a summary/ list format. Watanabe also teaches in Para 0066 and 0072 a central apparatus which generates the summary document of the selected images finds a laboratory which stores the high resolution images corresponding to the requested image, it will only find the high resolution images if there were location information which indicates a location of the image information included in the summary of the generated summary document. As shown in Para 70 Watanabe teaches a summary document [29 of Fig. 3] which indicates an image ID (23) where the image ID indicates the location of the high resolution image [Para 0066].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 5, 12, 14, 17, 18, 25, 27, 30, 28, 29, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe '277.

As pertaining to **Claim 1**, Watanabe '277 teaches an image information distributing method for receiving image information stored in a central apparatus by one or a plurality of terminal apparatus (i.e., **Para 0010-0016, Method for distributing image data stored in a central apparatus**), comprising the steps of: generating, by using said image information stored in said central apparatus (i.e., **Para 0012 , image information is stored in central apparatus**), summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information (i.e. **Para 0069-0070 and Fig. 7, central apparatus uses image information and generates summary image information[thumbnail images Para 0062] whose information is smaller than said information**); generating a summary document (i.e., **Para 0071, central apparatus generates a summary document [Fig. 5] of the images**) including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored (i.e., **Para 0066 and 0072, Image ID's of images included in the summary document indicate**

location information where the location information corresponds to location on the server where the image information is stored) and said summary image information (i.e., Para 0062 and 66, **Image ID indicates server of original image and summary image information[thumbnail]**); generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E- mail (i.e., **Para 0073-0074, a summary email is generated[Fig. 6] by attaching generated summary document to an e-mail[29 of Fig. 3]**); and transmitting said generated summary E-mail to said one or a plurality of terminal apparatus (i.e., **Para 0075, generated summary is transmitted to a terminal apparatus[6b of Fig. 3]**).

As pertaining to **Claim 5**, Watanabe '277 teaches an image information distributing system (i.e., **Fig. 3, distribution system**) in which a scanner apparatus (i.e., **7 of Fig. 2, Scanner**) for generating image information by reading an image of an original (i.e., **Para 0061, image data having been read from a film by a scanner**) and transmitting said image information (i.e., **Para 0061, image data is registered by a registration function as a high resolution into the laboratory server**), a central apparatus (i.e., **16 of Fig. 3, low resolution database**) for receiving and storing the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus (i.e., **Para 0061, image data scanned is registered in the laboratory server and then the low resolution database**), and one or a plurality of terminal apparatus for receiving the image information transmitted from said central apparatus (i.e., **Para 0010-0016, Method for distributing image data stored in a central apparatus**) are connected via communicating means (i.e., **5 of Fig. 3, Internet**), wherein any of said scanner

apparatus, said central apparatus and said terminal apparatus comprises: summary document generating means (i.e., **8 of Fig. 2, laboratory server**) having means for generating, by using said image information generated by said scanner apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information (i.e. **Para 0061, laboratory server uses image information and generates summary image information[thumbnail images Para 0062] whose information is smaller than said information**), and means for generating a summary document (i.e., **Para 0071 , central apparatus generates a summary document [Fig. 5] of the images**)including location information indicative of a location in which said image information generated by said scanner apparatus is stored (i.e., **Para 0066 and 0072, Image ID's of images included in the summary document indicate location information where the location information corresponds to location on the server where the image information is stored**) and said summary image information (i.e., **Para 0062 and 66, Image ID indicates server of original image and summary image information[thumbnail]**); and E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E-mail (i.e., **Para 0073-0074, a summary email is generated[Fig. 6] by attaching generated summary document to an e-mail[29 of Fig. 3]**), and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail to said terminal apparatus(i.e., **Para 0075, generated summary is transmitted to a terminal apparatus [6b of Fig. 3]**).

With respect to **Claim 12**, Watanabe '277 teaches a central apparatus (i.e., **16 of Fig. 3, Central apparatus**) having means for, by connecting to communicating means

(i.e., 5 of Fig. 3, Internet), performing communication, and storing means for storing image information received via said means (i.e., Para 0061, images are registered), comprising: means for, when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, transmitting the image information stored in a location in said storing means indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction (i.e., Para 0066, server transfers the order file including the high resolution images indicated by the location information[Image ID] in the received transmitting instruction); summary document generating means (i.e., 8 of Fig. 2, laboratory server) having means for, by using received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information (i.e. Para 0061, laboratory server uses image information and generates summary image information[thumbnail images Para 0062] whose information is smaller than said information), and means for generating a summary document (i.e., Para 0071 , central apparatus generates a summary document [Fig. 5] of the images) including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored (i.e., Para 0066 and 0072, Image ID's of images included in the summary document indicate location information where the location information corresponds to location on the server where the image information is stored) and the generated summary image information (i.e., Para 0062 and 66, Image ID indicates server of original image and summary image information[thumbnail]); and E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail (i.e., Para

0073-0074, a summary email is generated[Fig. 6] by attaching generated summary document to an e-mail[29 of Fig. 3]), and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail (i.e., Para 0075, generated summary is transmitted to a terminal apparatus[6b of Fig. 3]).

As pertaining to **Claim 14**, Watanabe '277 teaches a terminal apparatus **terminal apparatus [6a of Fig. 3]** having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, comprising: means for receiving image information (i.e., **Fig. 3, a scanner apparatus may transmit image information to a terminal apparatus [6a]);** summary document generating means (i.e., **12 of Fig. 3, service provider)** having means for, by using the received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information (i.e. **Para 0061 and 0070, service provider uses image information and generates summary image information[thumbnail images Para 0062] whose information is smaller than said information**), and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored (i.e., **Para 0066 and 0072, Image ID's of images included in the summary document indicate location information where the location information corresponds to location on the server where the image information is stored)** and said summary image information (i.e., **Para 0062 and 66, Image ID indicates server of original image and summary image information[thumbnail]);** and E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail (i.e., **Para 0073-0074, a summary email is**

generated[Fig. 6] by attaching generated summary document to an e-mail[29 of Fig. 3]], and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail (i.e., Para 0075, generated summary is transmitted to a terminal apparatus[6b of Fig. 3]).

With regards to method **Claim 17**, the limitation of the claim 17 are corrected by limitation of claim 5 above. The steps of claim 17 read into the function step of claim 5.

With regards to method **Claim 18**, the limitation of the claim 18 are corrected by limitation of claim 5 above. The steps of claim 18 read into the function step of claim 5.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 25**, the limitation of the claim 25 are corrected by limitation of claim 12 above. The steps of claim 25 read into the function step of claim 12.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 27**, the limitation of the claim 27 are corrected by limitation of claim 14 above. The steps of claim 27 read into the function step of claim 14.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 28**, the limitation of the claim 28 are corrected by limitation of claim 20 above. The steps of claim 28 read into the function step of claim 20.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 29**, the limitation of the claim 29 are corrected by limitation of claim 4 above. The steps of claim 29 read into the function step of claim 4.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 30**, the limitation of the claim 30 are corrected by limitation of claim 5 above. The steps of claim 30 read into the function step of claim 5.

With regards to the apparatus of **Claim 34**, the limitation of the claim 34 are corrected by limitation of claim 28 above. The steps of claim 34 read into the function step of claim 28.

As pertaining to Claim 35, Watanabe '277 teaches a terminal apparatus further comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means (i.e., **5 of Fig. 3, internet**), performing communication, wherein said summary document processing means comprises: means for accepting input of a receiving instruction (i.e., **Para 0065 , User may input into terminal apparatus a request for a receiving instruction[request to print an image]**) for requesting reception of image information i.e., **Para 0065, user inputs order information on image information such as Image ID requesting image information**); and means for, when said receiving instruction is inputted, transmitting a transmitting instruction including the location information corresponding to the image information requested to be received (i.e., **Para 0065-0066, summary image information[thumbnail] corresponding to high resolution image is received by the central apparatus including location information[Image ID]).**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Peek (hereinafter "Peek '551" 6,614,551).

With respect to **Claim 2**, Watanabe '277 does not explicitly teach the step of determining whether character information is included in said image information or not; and in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Peek '551. In particular, Peek '551 teaches the use of determining whether character information is included in said image information or not (**i.e., Col. 6 lines 66-67, scans the image information to identify any portions [determine if character data is included] to have typed or printed material image**); and in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document (**i.e., Col. 7 lines 1-2, if typed or printed material is detected the type characters are identified and converted into email**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 as taught by Peek '551 since Peek '551 suggested in Col. 2 lines 1-14 that such a modification would provide an improved and effective processor for converting fax type data into internet type data corresponding to the image.

With respect to **Claim 3**, Watanabe '277 teaches an image information distributing method, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means (i.e., **6B of Fig. 3, terminal apparatus comprising a display means**), the summary image information and/or character information included in the received summary document is displayed on said displaying means (i.e., **Para 0070, summary image information[29 of Fig. 3] and character information[comments] included in received document[email] are displayed on the display means**).

With regards to method **Claim 6**, the limitation of the claim 6 are corrected by limitation of claim 2 above. The steps of claim 6 read into the function step of claim 2.

With regards to method **Claim 7**, the limitation of the claim 3 are corrected by limitation of claim 3 above. The steps of claim 7 read into the function step of claim 3.

With regards to method **Claim 19**, the limitation of the claim 6 are corrected by limitation of claim 2 above. The steps of claim 19 read into the function step of claim 2.

6. Claims 4, 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277 and Peek '551 as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Morris (hereinafter "Morris '075" 7,028,075).

With respect to **Claim 4**, Watanabe '277 teaches an image information distributing method, wherein said terminal apparatus accepts input of a receiving instruction (i.e., **Para 0065, User may input into terminal apparatus a request for a receiving instruction[request to print an image]**) for requesting reception of image information corresponding to the received summary image information and/or character

information, and, when said receiving instruction is inputted (i.e., **Para 0065, user inputs order information on image information such as Image ID requesting image information**), in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmits to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document (i.e., **Para 0065-0066, summary image information[thumbnail] corresponding to high resolution image is received by the central apparatus including location information[Image ID]**), and said central apparatus, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmits image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction (i.e., **Para 0066, server transfers the order file including the high resolution images indicated by the location information[Image ID] in the received transmitting instruction**).

Watanabe '277 and Peek '551 do not explicitly teach transmitting image information stored in a location to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Morris '075. In particular, Morris '075 teaches the use of transmitting image information stored in a location to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction (i.e., **Col. 5 lines 30-33, terminal apparatus reviews images and sends a request to download full size original images to the terminal apparatus**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 and Peek '551 as taught by Morris '075 since Morris '075 suggested in Col. 3 lines 1-25 that such a modification would provide a simplified process of sharing images from one computer to another computer.

With regards to method **Claim 8**, the limitation of the claim 8 are corrected by limitation of claim 4 above. The steps of claim 8 read into the function step of claim 4.

With respect to **Claim 9** Watanabe '277 teaches image information distributing system wherein said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said central apparatus (i.e., **Para 0070-0071, center server generates an electronic mail message which has the comment as main text and an image file indicated by the image ID in the low resolution image database as an attachment**)

With respect to **Claim 11**, Watanabe '277 teaches a scanner apparatus comprises means for transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus (i.e., **Fig. 2 and 3, scanner (7) comprises a center server (16) which transmits image information to a terminal apparatus**) and said predetermined terminal apparatus further comprises means for receiving the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus (i.e., **Para 0076 and Fig. 3, scanner transmits image information through central server to a terminal apparatus**).

Watanabe '277 and Peek '551 do not explicitly teach summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided **on** said predetermined terminal apparatus.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Morris '075, In particular, Morris '075 teaches the use of a said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus (**i.e., Col. 9 lines 35-54, terminal apparatus generates a summary document and processes an e-mail**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 as taught by Morris '075 since Morris '075 suggested in Col. 3 lines 1-25 that such a modification would provide a simplified process of sharing images from one computer to another computer.

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277, Peek '551 and Morris '075 as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Seki et al (hereinafter "Seki '484" US 20030048484).

With respect to **Claim 10**, Watanabe '277 doe not explicitly teach said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided **on** said scanner apparatus.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Seki '484, In particular, Seki '484 teaches the use of said summary

document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided **on** said scanner apparatus (i.e., **Para 0148 , facsimile machine generates a summary document [Fig. 3] and process an e-mail attaching thumbnail images).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the system of Watanabe '277 as taught by Seki '484 since Seki '484 suggested in Para 0006 that such a modification would provide a data transmission/reception system capable of receiving image data flexibly.

8. Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277 and Peek '551 as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Morris (hereinafter "Morris '075" 7,028,075).

With respect to Claim 20, Watanabe '277 teaches an image information distributing system, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means (i.e., **6B of Fig. 3, terminal apparatus comprising a display means**), and said processor is further capable of performing operation of displaying summary image information and/or character information included in the summary document onto said displaying means (i.e., **Para 0070, summary image information[29 of Fig. 3] and character information[comments] included in received document[email] are displayed on the display means**).

Watanabe '277 does not explicitly teach said operation of generating summary document is performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Morris '075, In particular, Morris '075 teaches the use of said operation of generating summary document is performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus (i.e., **Col. 9 lines 35-54, terminal apparatus generates a summary document and processes an e-mail**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 as taught by Morris '075 since Morris '075 suggested in Col. 3 lines 1-25 that such a modification would provide a simplified process of sharing images from one computer to another computer.

With regards to system of **Claim 21**, the limitation of the claim 21 are corrected by limitation of claim 4 above. The steps of claim 21 read into the function step of claim 4.

With regards to system of **Claim 22**, the limitation of the claim 22 are corrected by limitation of claim 9 above. The steps of claim 22 read into the function step of claim 9.

With regards to system of **Claim 23**, the limitation of the claim 23 are corrected by limitation of claim 10 above. The steps of claim 23 read into the function step of claim 10

9. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277, Peek '551 and Morris '075 as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Seki '484.

With respect to **Claim 24**, Watanabe '277 teaches said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus is further capable of performing operation of receiving the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus.

Watanabe '277 does not explicitly teach said processor provided on said scanner apparatus is capable of performing operation of transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus and said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Seki '484 and Morris '075. In particular, Seki '484 teaches the use of a processor provided on said scanner apparatus is capable of performing operation of transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus (**i.e., Para 0148 , facsimile machine generates a summary document [Fig. 3] and process an e-mail attaching thumbnail images and transmits the e-mail**) and Morris '075 teaches a operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus (**i.e., Col. 9 lines 35-54, terminal apparatus generates a summary document and processes an e-mail**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 as taught by Morris '075 and Seki '484 since Morris '075 suggested in Col. 3 lines 1-25 that such a modification would provide a simplified process of sharing images from one computer to another computer and Seki '484 suggested in Para 0006 that such a modification would provide a data transmission/reception system capable of receiving image data flexibly.

10. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe '277 and further in view of Morris '075.

With respect to Claim 32, Watanabe '277 teaches a method comprising the steps of computer comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication (i.e., 5 of Fig. 3, Internet), receive image information (i.e., Fig. 3, a scanner apparatus may transmit image information to a terminal apparatus [6a]) computer to generate, by using the received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information (i.e. Para 0061 and 0070, service provider uses image information and generates summary image information[thumbnail images Para 0062] whose information is smaller than said information), a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored (i.e., Para 0066 and 0072, Image ID's of images included in the summary document indicate location information where the location information corresponds to location on the server where the image information is stored) and said summary image information (i.e., Para 0062

and 66, Image ID indicates server of original image and summary image information[thumbnail]), generate a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail (i.e., Para 0073-0074, a summary email is generated[Fig. 6] by attaching generated summary document to an e-mail[29 of Fig. 3]); and to transmit the generated summary E-mail (i.e., Para 0075, generated summary is transmitted to a terminal apparatus[6b of Fig. 3]).

Watanabe '277 does not explicitly teach a computer program embodied in A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium for causing a computer to transmit/receive information is recorded, said, said computer program comprising the steps for: causing the computer to execute steps of a method.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Morris '075. In particular, Morris '075 teaches the use of a computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium for causing a computer to transmit/receive information is recorded, said, said computer program comprising the steps for: causing the computer to execute steps of a method (i.e., Col. 10 lines 24-28).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the image information distributing method of Watanabe '277 as taught by Morris '075 since Morris '075 suggested in Col. 3 lines 1-25 that such a modification would provide a simplified process of sharing images from one computer to another computer.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS DICKER whose telephone number is (571)270-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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